



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, LAS VEGAS NEVADA



The Desert Sun



SKYWARN Spotter Newsletter

Fall 2006

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This newsletter serves the following counties:

Despite the monsoon season being relatively short-lived, it was quite active in some parts of our forecast area. During the last two weeks of July, we issued more than 100 severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings. As always, we owe a special thanks to our many spotters who called in real time ground truth reports. Your observations represent a key element to our effectiveness when severe weather threatens life and property.

We appreciate your dedication, and look forward to continuing an active collaboration with you to protect the public safety. In order to make it more convenient for those of you who are located in remote areas, or simply have busy schedules, we will soon be offering some of our training segments as web casts. Stay tuned to our web site for more information on those opportunities. Thanks again for your support, and have a great autumn!

Nevada: Clark, Lincoln,
Nye, Esmeralda

Kim Runk, Meteorologist in Charge

Arizona: Mohave

California: Inyo,
San Bernardino

Contacts:

NWS Las Vegas Admin
Line (702) 263-9744

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[www.wrh.noaa.gov/
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(702) 736-3854

A Brief Las Vegas Climatology Summary for the first half of 2006

Barry Pierce, Lead Forecaster

How dry has it been officially in Las Vegas? Well between January 1 and June 30, 0.33 inches of rain was reported. That makes the first half of the year the eighth driest start to a year since records started in 1937. The driest start to a year occurred in 1953 when only 0.07 of an inch was measured. For the first half of 2006, average monthly temperatures were well above normal in January, May and June. January was the eighth warmest on record, May was the third warmest and June was the warmest with an average temperature of 90.5 degrees. April and February were closer to normal while March was below normal. In fact, there were four days in March when a trace of snow was reported on three consecutive days between March 10-12. The lowest temperature of 32 degrees occurred on January 20, while the warmest temperature of 110 degrees occurred on June 23 and 24.

For more information visit the Las Vegas Climate Book on our website
www.weather.gov/lasvegas

Skywarn Word Search

S T Y R B P O B P M M T Z T P E X F S B
Q T F C G I S L O P I N R P D V W P B F
K X O A N B K T X M C O O A B X O A V D
M D X R R V V E E B R R Z D I T X G P A
G M F A M D D G D F O F H Z T N Y F D Y
N T U S D D N V T F B T J E Z Z Q B G I
I K H V O I A W E F U S R A I N G A G E
N J X A D M O M O Q R U O D A N R O T K
R C K O N C D D A D S G I V Z Q T V J O
A V O J T K R Y T G T L A W J W K Y P L
W L X H R P Y N U K E V R C L A L F I K
F L T W D M C O Y C S J O M R T B G F I
D G I K Z S L V U Q K J W P R M H L A D
D U O L C L L A W A Y T T O N T O H L A
Q R V R R S M S W K W S P F N F U P H E
E V A Z U B H U Z C A E L I A X R Y Q N
T H U N D E R S T O R M N W Q R A J I I
B D T C P W L N F Z N G W L F B D R G M
H V G G Z F G B D D O G R L Y J R P Q E
F R K S Q U E I D K G O G H A I L Q U W

DOWNDRAFT
MICROBURST
SPOTTER
WALL CLOUD

FLOODING
RAIN
STORM DAMAGE
WARNING

GUST FRONT
RAIN GAGE
THUNDERSTORM
THANK YOU

HAIL
REPORT
TORNADO

LIGHTNING
SKYWARN
UPDRAFT

Non-Weather related Emergency Messages available on NOAA Weather Radio

By Donald Maker, Skywarn Coordinator

The network of NOAA's All Hazards Weather Radio has implemented Non-Weather related Emergency Messages (NWEMs) at all national weather service forecast offices. At the request of authorized local and/or state officials, NWEMs will be broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio. The National Weather Service does not initiate the contact or the message. When local or state officials wish to broadcast a message on NWR, the officials provide text information about the hazard and the appropriate response directly to the local NWS offices. NWEMs will be broadcast over NWR when: (1) public safety is involved, (2) the message comes from an official government source, and (3) time is critical. A NWEM has the same priority as weather warnings or watches, so when issued the regular NOAA Weather Radio broadcast will be interrupted by the EAS/SAME tones followed by pertinent information. The 1050hz Alert tone will be used for warnings only. All followup statements will be issued using the Administrative Message or ADR. The ADR is not set to activate EAS/SAME or Alert tones. Here's a list of NWEMs that are considered warnings and are set to activate the EAS/SAME and Alert tones:

Avalanche Warning, Civil Danger Warning, Civil Emergency Message, Evacuation Immediate Warning, Earthquake Warning, Fire Warning, Hazardous Materials Warning, Law Enforcement Warning, Nuclear Power Plant Warning, Radiological Hazard Warning, Shelter In Place Warning, and Volcano Warning. The NWEMs that will activate the EAS/SAME tones only are: **Avalanche Watch, Child Abduction Emergency, Local Area Emergency, and 911 Telephone Emergency.** For a complete listing of the non-weather related emergency products and their definition go to:

www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01005018curr.pdf

Websites and Other Things of Interest

Donald Maker, Skywarn Coordinator

More Websites of Interest....

<http://www.az511.com/hcrsweb/hcrsweb.jsp?ventFilter=all&timeFilter=beyond&menuName=az>

(road conditions for Arizona with access to adjacent states)

<http://hurricane.csc.noaa.gov/hurricanes/viewer.html> (historical hurricane tracks)

<http://amsu.cira.colostate.edu/gpstpw/> (track moisture plumes)

<http://www.wunderground.com/radar/map.asp> (interactive radar map)

<http://www.arizona-skywarn.org/> (no explanation needed)

<http://www.nps.gov/> (national park service)

<http://local.live.com/> (interactive locator map)

<http://www.tsa.gov/> (transportation security administration)

Got a favored E-rated website you want to share, send me the link donald.maker@noaa.gov.

The National Weather Service does not endorse any commercial website. The purpose of the commercial websites listed is intended for your information only. The NWS accepts no liability for the content of the listed commercial websites, or for any consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided by a commercial website.

Skywarn Storm Spotter Training coming back online in Las Vegas

Donald Maker, Skywarn Coordinator

As a result of increased computer security requirements, the online storm spotter training that was offered by WFO Las Vegas had to be discontinued a few years ago. With the advent of online conference software, the storm spotter training at WFO Las Vegas can resume. The training sessions will be live with a chat feature. With the use of our toll-free conference call line each session will accommodate up to 18 people. In case you haven't figured it out yet, each person wanting to participate will need a phone (to hear me speak), and a computer with internet access (to log onto the training session). This is a Windows-based program, so your operating system should be no earlier than Windows 98. The internet connection can be cable modem, ISDN, DSL, or a stable 56K modem, and your system should at least have a Pentium 400 MHz with 256MB of RAM. Each session will be up to 2 hours in duration and will begin at 6:00 pm PST. The goal is to conduct a storm spotter training session every other month beginning this September. This training is not meant to replace the regular storm spotter training I conduct in person every June, just before the onset of our monsoon season. It is meant to respond to training requests from people interested in joining Skywarn, but would otherwise have to wait until next June. In fact, there will be other meteorologists conducting storm spotter training sessions as well (online and in person).

The first online storm spotter training is scheduled for Wednesday September 20, 2006 at 6:00 pm PDT. Since I will be mailing training packets on Tuesday September 12th, you should RSVP by September 8th. Each training packet will include spotter guides, handouts and cloud charts to be used during the session. I'll also include detailed instructions on accessing the online training. Remember, there are only 18 spaces available per session. However, if you aren't one of the first 18 to respond, I'll notify you of the next scheduled online training and you can let me know if you can attend. If you RSVP via email an online questionnaire will need to be completed. If you RSVP by phone, I will mail the questionnaire that must be returned before the date the training packets are mailed out (9/8/06). My email address is donald.maker@noaa.gov and my phone number is (702) 263-9744 ext. 268. A considerable amount of my time is spent on the road, so please leave a message.

SKYWARN REPORTING CRITERIA

Tornado: circulation in contact with the ground

Funnel Cloud: circulation not in contact with the ground

Rotating Wall Cloud

Downburst (visually identified)

Wind: causing damage (such as broken tree limbs or downed power lines) or estimated speeds greater than 40 mph

Hail: greater than pea-size or covering the ground, specify size of largest stone

1/4 inch.....	pea size
1/2 inch.....	marble size
3/4 inch.....	dime, penny size
1 inch.....	quarter size

Rainfall: 1/4 of an inch or more per 1/2 hour, or any cumulative total over 1/2 inch

Flooding: of ANY kind! Are waters rising or falling?

Visibility: under 1/2 mile, caused by anything

Snowfall: accumulating one inch or more per hour, or any depth on desert floors

Icing: of road surfaces caused by anything



Important Note:

When you observe weather conditions that meet or exceed the criteria listed on this page, call in your report to our office **Immediately !!**

Reports received in a timely fashion are very helpful to us when it comes to protecting life and property!

Also when in doubt, Call.

NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies & Coverage

KXI-83 Kingman, AZ and vicinity 162.425 MHz

KXI-84 Lake Havasu City, AZ/Needles, CA and vicinity 162.400 MHz

KQC-45 Laughlin, NV/Bullhead City and Lake Mohave, AZ 162.500 MHz

WNG-634 Pahrump, Jean, & Primm, NV/Mountain Pass, CA 162.400 MHz